

Application No.: 10/715740
Amendment dated: February 15, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 9, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute the two enclosed replacement sheets for the original sheets bearing FIGs. 8 and 9. Annotated sheets showing changes are also enclosed.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

FIGs. 8 and 9 have been amended as required. The legend "RELATED ART" has been used instead of "PRIOR ART" because the subject matter shown in FIGs. 7 and 8 (which is described in paragraphs 0002 and 0003, and in Japanese application JP20020338124, published on June 17, 2004 under Publication No. JP2004-169850) does not qualify as prior art.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, and claim 2 has been amended by incorporation of all the limitations of claim 1. Claims 3-5 are dependent, directly or indirectly, on claim 2, and have not been changed.

The provisional, obviousness-type double patenting rejection applies only to claim 1. Since claim 1 has been cancelled, no terminal disclaimer or other response to this rejection is believed necessary.

Copies of the following documents are being submitted in response to the requirement for information under 37 C.F.R. §1.105.

JP2002139110
U.S. 6,244,981

JP2002139110 was published May 17, 2002, and discloses a tensioner having a clutch mechanism, in which clutch elements 4 are provided to limit retracting movement of the plunger.

U.S. 6,244,981, published June 12, 2001, describes a tensioner having toothed pawls 150 and 152 engageable with steps 111 on opposite sides of a piston. The patent also shows a retention clip 5.

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Tensioners similar to the tensioner described in JP20020338124 are disclosed in U.S. 2004/0029664, U.S. 2004/0029665, U.S. 2004/0029666, and U.S. 6,808,466, all of which are already of record. The foreign counterparts and publication dates are listed below, and English language abstracts and bibliographic data are submitted herewith for each of the four groups of documents:

U.S. 2004/0029664
JP2004076796 June 9, 2003
GB 2 393 232 March 24, 2004
DE 103 37 343 Feb. 26, 2004

U.S. 2004/0029665
JP2004068990 June 9, 2003
GB 2 393 231 March 24, 2004
DE 103 36 782 Feb. 26, 2004

U.S. 2004/0029666
JP2004076797 June 9, 2003
GB 2 391 918 March 18, 2004
DE 103 34 364 Feb. 26, 2004

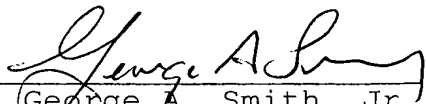
U.S. 6,808,466
JP 2003287094 June 9, 2003
GB 2 389 404 Dec. 10, 2003
DE 103 12 300 Oct. 16, 2003

None of the above documents describes a plunger releasing mechanism comprising a loop-shaped retainer pivoted in a roll-shaped tube, as claimed in claim 2 of the present application. Moreover, none of the foreign publication dates is early enough to make the document prior art.

The amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, and the issuance of a notice of allowance, are respectfully requested.

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Enclosures:
2 replacement sheets
2 annotated sheets
JP2002139110
U.S. 6,244,981
Form SB/08A
Bibliographic data and abstracts



Fig.8
(RELATED ART)

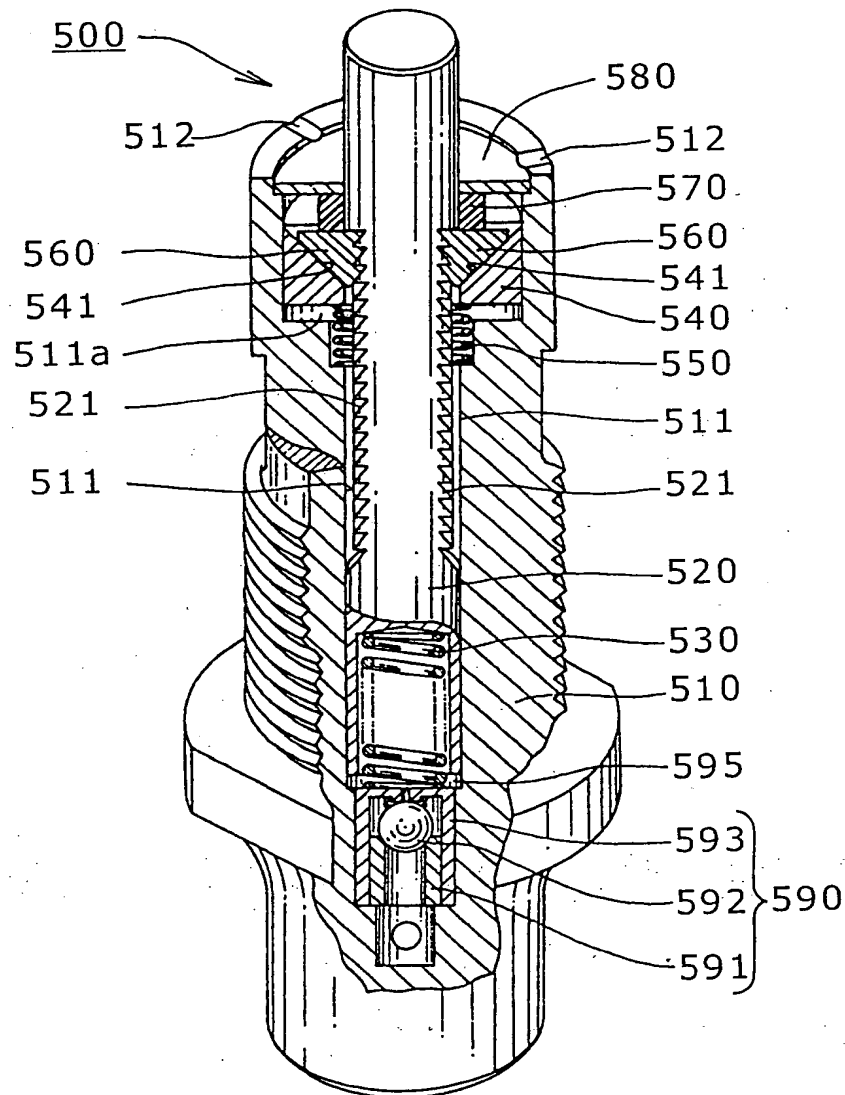


Fig.9
(RELATED ART)

